You Work in a Great Profession

BY JOEL JACKSON

You grow personally as well as professionally through participation in your local associations. You have provided a good living for your family. Subordinates and turf students you hire, train, intern and mentor one day become head superintendents.

It is at the same time maddening: Even when it’s raining cats and dogs (or there is frost on the ground), you’ll still get the call from the pro shop to ask, “When can we let them go?”

You use the same operator, the same chemical, the same sprayer, the same rate, the same program that you always do, and on this day you get turf burns on the overlap.

The day of the special tournament, two employees show up late or don’t show up at all. The EPA bans an effective and economical product that has never been shown to be a problem except when fed in obscene amounts to lab rats.

The total area of the golf course never changes, but the conditioning expectations keep climbing. You are expected to do more with less during hard times. At the same time, you have to try to satisfy scratch golfers and double-digit handicappers on the same day.

It is without a doubt the greatest profession mankind has ever invented: Amen. Ever since the days of Old Tom Morris, the greenkeeper remains the most important person on the golf course when it comes to having the knowledge and ability to manage the club’s most important asset.

Maybe Palmer was subconsciously paying tribute to his superintendent father when he uttered his famous quotation. But whatever the motivation, I was pleased to discover a deeper meaning for the profession we all love.

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